

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor
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Connecticut Department of Agriculture
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NORWICH FARM PRESERVED, WILL FOREVER BE PART OF CITY'S WORKING LANDSCAPE

By Steve Jensen, Office of Cmsr. Steven K. Reviczky

NORWICH - With the exception of a high-rise casino hotel visible in the distance, the sweeping view across the hayfields at Ron Mazurkiewicz' family farm hasn't changed much since his grandparents bought it during the Great Depression.

That's exactly how Ron likes it, and partly explains why he decided to follow his late father's wishes and permanently protect the 124-acre dairy-support farm under the state's Farmland Preservation Program.

Once among a cluster of at least a half-dozen farms along Plain Hill Road high above downtown Norwich, Ron has seen other local farms being turned into residential subdivisions.

"All they're growing now is houses," he said of those properties, including the nearby Farm View Estates. "I didn't want to see that happen here."

Mazurkiewicz Farm is the 14th farm protected by the state in the current fiscal year.

The program, under which farmers convey their property's development rights to the state but still own the land and contribute to the local tax base, has preserved a total of about 42,000 acres of farmland since it was created in 1978. Owners also may convey their land to others,

but a permanent deed restriction assures the property will always remain available for agricultural production.

Ron's father, Raymond, had often talked over the years of preserving the farm.

But the final impetus to make it happen did not come until 2009, about a year before Raymond passed on, when his neighbor and cousin Eugene Wisneske protected his farm with the Dept. of Agriculture, assisted by CT Farmland Trust.

"When the Wisneske's preservation went through something lit a fire under him," Ron said, recalling his father suddenly announcing one day that he had submitted an application to the Farmland Preservation Program.

"That's what made up his mind. And after he passed away I wanted to keep the process going myself."

The farm has about 35 acres of hayfield, 26 of which are considered prime and statewide important soils.

Its borders also contain substantial woodland that serves as a buffer to the nearby Bog Meadow Reservoir, maintained as an emergency water supply for the city of Norwich.

(Continued on Page 3)

LANCASTER, PA., LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Avg. Dressing

SLAUGHTER COWS:	LOW	HIGH
breakers 75-80% lean	74.50	83.00
boners 80-85% lean	73.00	80.50
lean 88-90% lean	70.00	77.50
SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	128.50	135.00
Choice 2-3	126.50	129.00
Sel 1-2	124.00	131.00
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEIN STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	123.50	126.00
Ch 2-3	112.00	122.00
Sel 1-2	102.00	114.50
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	127.50	132.50
Ch 2-3	123.00	128.50
Select 1-2	117.00	124.00
CALVES - Graded bull		
No 1 120-128 lbs	217.00	217.00
No 1 106-118 lbs	237.00	250.00
No 1 94-104 lbs	265.00	277.00
FRESH COWS		
Supreme	1850.00	2050.00
Approved	1500.00	1800.00
Medium	1225.00	1500.00
Common	850.00	1200.00
BRED COWS		
Approved	1500.00	1500.00
Medium	1275.00	1350.00
OPEN HEIFERS 300 - 600 lbs		
Supreme	1050.00	1110.00
Approved	860.00	1075.00
Medium	700.00	835.00
Common	600.00	625.00
OPEN HEIFERS - Jersey/Crossbred 300 - 600 lbs		
Supreme	1175.00	1275.00
Approved	975.00	1075.00
Medium	600.00	785.00
Common	500.00	675.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn		
Markets: Choice and Prime 2-3		
40-50 lbs	300.00	335.00
50-60 lbs	299.00	315.00
60-70 lbs	260.00	265.00
70-80 lbs	260.00	265.00
80-90 lbs	250.00	280.00
90-110 lbs	245.00	265.00
110-130 lbs	200.00	225.00
130-150 lbs	190.00	197.00
150-200 lbs	177.00	178.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3		
80-120 lbs	80.00	97.00
120-160 lbs	70.00	92.00
160-200 lbs	70.00	90.00
200-300 lbs	50.00	100.00
BUCKS		
160-200 lbs	70.00	105.00
200-300 lbs	65.00	92.00
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Select 1, by head, est.		
40-60 lbs	165.00	180.00
80-100 lbs	200.00	210.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES:		
Sel 1, by head, est.		
80-130 lbs	200.00	215.00
130-180 lbs	220.00	257.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Select 1		
100-150 lbs	260.00	295.00
150-250 lbs	310.00	390.00

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices
NEW ENGLAND GROWN

	LOW	HIGH
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 12-4OZ	16.00	16.50
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5 LBS	14.00	14.00
APPLES, EMPIRE, #1, 120, 140	15.00	16.00
APPLES, MACS, #1, 120, 140	15.00	16.00
APPLES, MACS, FCY, 120, 140	17.00	17.00
APPLES, MACS, FCY, 80, 88	17.00	17.00
APPLE, MACS, FCY, 2-1/2", 12-3LB	16.00	16.00
APPLE, RED DEL, FCY, 125	16.00	16.50
BEAN SPROUTS, 10 LBS	5.00	6.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ	12.00	15.00
BEET, CHIOGGA, LOOSE, 25LBS	14.00	14.00
BEETS, GOLD, LOOSE, 25 LBS	12.00	12.00
BEETS, RED, ORG, 25 LBS	6.00	6.00
POTATO, WHT RND, CHEF, 50LB	9.00	9.00
POTATO, YLLW, CHEF, 50 LBS	12.00	12.00
TOMS, CHERRY, ONVINE, GH, 5 LB	16.00	18.00
TOMS, CHERRY, GHSE, 8-10 OZ	23.00	24.00
TOMS, GHSE, VINERIPE, 25 LBS	23.00	24.00
TOMATO, HEIRLM, GHSE, 10LBS	24.00	28.00

SHIPPED IN

APPLE, CORTLND, NY, XFCY, 80	26.00	26.00
APPLE, JONAGLD, NY, XF, 64, 72	20.00	20.00
APPLE, MUTSU, NY, XF, 64, 72	22.00	22.00
ASPARAGUS, CA, 28BNCH, 11LB	53.00	56.00
BOK CHOY, FL, 50 LBS	25.00	29.00
BOKCHOY, BABY, FL, 1.5 BU	24.00	32.00
CABBAGE, GREEN, NY, 50 LBS	11.00	13.00
CABBAGE, RED, FL, 50 LBS	15.00	16.00
CARROTS, CA, BUNCH, 24	21.00	22.00
CHIVES, CHINESE, CA, CTNS	50.00	50.00
CHOY SUM, LONG, CA, 30 LBS	35.00	36.00
COLLARDS, GA, 24	12.00	13.00
CORN, BICOLOR, FL, 4-4 1/2 DZ	16.00	18.00
CUKE, LNG, GHSE, FLMWRP, 12	12.00	14.00
DANDELION, TX, 12 BNCH	16.00	18.00
EGGPLANT, WRAPPED, FL, 1-1/9	20.00	22.00
EGPLNT, STRIPE, GHS, NL, 11LB	16.00	20.00
ENDIVE, FL, 24	22.00	26.00
ESCAROLE, FL, 1-1/9, 24	24.00	28.00
FRISEE, CA, 24	20.00	24.00
GAI CHOY, CA, 30 LBS	25.00	25.00
GARLIC, SUPR COL, CA, 30 LBS	68.00	70.00
GINGER ROOT, HI, 30 LBS	45.00	55.00
KALE, MULTICOLR, CA, 24	24.00	24.00
LETT, BSTN, GHS, CAN, 12-4OZ	16.00	17.00
LET, GNLF, AZ-CA, 24	12.00	16.00
LET, RED OAK LF, AZ-CA, 2.2LB	11.00	13.00
LETT, OAKLF, CA, 2.2 LBS	11.00	13.00
MESCLUN MIX, CA, 3LBS	6.00	6.50
MESCLUN MIX, ORG, CA, 3LBS	8.00	8.00
MUSHRMS, SHITAKE, PA, 3 LBS	14.00	15.00
ONG CHOY, CA, 40 LBS	140.00	140.00
OPO SQUASH, CA, 35 LBS	42.00	42.00
PEAS, ENGLISH, CA, 30 LBS	54.00	54.00
RADISHES, FL, 14-1LB	13.00	15.00
RHUBARB, GHS, MI, 10 LBS	33.00	33.00
SPINACH, BABY, ORG, CA, 4LBS	10.00	12.00
SQUASH, BTTNT, NY, 1-1/9	20.00	21.00
SQUASH, YEL, SM, FL, 1/2 BU	22.00	24.00
SWISS CHARD, MXCLR, TX, 12	16.00	18.00
TOMATO, MATURE GRN, FL, 5X6	24.00	26.00
TURNIP TOPS, GA, 24	15.00	16.00
ZUCCHINI, FL, MED, 1/2 BU	8.00	10.00
YU CHOY, CA, 30 LBS	35.00	36.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT - April 4, 2016

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	45.00	50.00
61-75 lbs.	160.00	165.00
76-90 lbs.	190.00	195.00
91-105 lbs.	200.00	205.00
106 lbs. & up	220.00	240.00
Farm Calves	250.00	270.00
Starter Calves	55.00	60.00
Veal Calves	170.00	180.00
Open Heifers	125.00	210.00
Beef Heifers	89.00	115.00
Feeder Steers	127.50	137.50
Beef Steers	102.00	112.50
Stock Bulls	135.00	165.00
Beef Bulls	90.00	110.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	n/a	n/a
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Feeder Pigs	n/a	n/a
Sheep	75.00	200.00
Lambs	100.00	265.00
Goats each	100.00	160.00
Kid Goats	95.00	105.00
Canners	up to	79.50
Cutters	80.00	82.00
Utility Grade Cows	83.00	86.00
Rabbits each	17.00	30.00
Chickens each	7.00	27.50
Ducks each	12.00	20.00

NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA

Per doz. Grade A and Grade A white in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	.68	.87
LARGE	.62	.76
MEDIUM	.42	.55

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

Per doz. Grade A brown in carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	1.19	1.35
LARGE	1.11	1.29
MEDIUM	.69	.75
SMALL	.54	.63

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Per cwt.

52-56	200-300 lbs	42.00	47.00
	300-350 lbs	41.00	45.00
	350-400 lbs	28.50	33.00
48-52	300-500 lbs	38.00	40.00
	300-350 lbs	35.00	38.00
Sows, US 1-3			
	300-500 lbs	34.00	37.00
	500-800 lbs	28.00	32.00
Boars	200-300 lbs	28.00	30.00

N-EAST RETAIL SPECIALTY CROPS

APPLES, BRAEBURN, LB	1.27	1.99
APPLES, GALA, LB	.97	1.99
APPLES, GINGERGOLD, LB	1.49	1.49
APPLES, HONEYCRISP, LB	2.97	2.97
APPLES, MACINTOSH, LB	.88	1.49
APPLES, PINK LADY, LB	1.49	2.49
APPLES, RED DEL, LB	.97	1.49

FOR SALE

1-R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now Connecticut's first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheep breeders, organic farmers and all others, call us for all your insurance needs. 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com

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4-R. Packaging for egg sales. New egg cartons, flats, egg cases, 30 doz and 15 doz. Polinsky Farm 860-376-2227.

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**(Continued from Page 1)**

With the addition of the Mazurkiewicz property, about 307 acres on four farms have now been preserved in Norwich.

Agriculture Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky worked on the Wisneske preservation project when he was a property agent with the department.

"I was impressed by the amount of quality farmland in that part of Norwich and I am very pleased that the Mazurkiewicz family has also committed to protecting their farm," Reviczky said. "These working lands are invaluable resources for future generations, and the farm families that protect them are creating a legacy of which they can be proud."

Ron's grandparents, Raymond and Caroline, bought the property in the early 1930s during the Depression, building a farmhouse and, eventually, a large dairy barn constructed in stages over many years.

They kept a few cows and other livestock, and planted some fruit trees between the house and the barn.

"Basically, there was no employment and my grandmother wanted to get where they could be self-sufficient," Ron said. "They knew some other people here on Plain Hill so they bought it."

After selling the farm in the 1940s and moving to nearby Montville, the couple decided to re-purchase it several years later and never left.

"When they came back in the '50s is when they went into dairy full-time," said Mazurkiewicz, who grew up on the farm and built a house here about 20 years ago in which he and his family still live. "As a kid growing up, my earliest memories here were always of the cows and the dairy."

His father took over the farm in the late 1960s, milking about 40 cows and selling milk to nearby Driscoll's Dairy.

Raymond sold the herd in 1983, when Ron was in his mid-20s and considering joining his father in the dairy business.

"But if I wanted to go in with him we would have had to go up to 80 cows or so and we just didn't have the land for it. We couldn't grow everything on our land that we needed and we really couldn't afford to rent any other land at the time."

So Ron became a truck mechanic, and his father began leasing acreage to other nearby farmers.

Neighbor Kelvin Stott was the first, followed by Arthur Spielman III, of Sprague, who still grows and harvests hay here today to support his dairy herd.

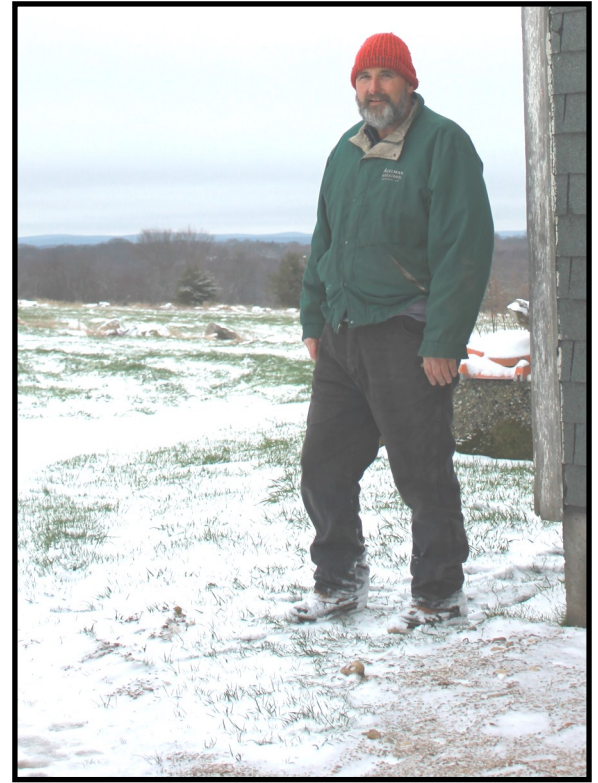
Other than clearing stones and brush from a 10-acre former pasture that will be used for growing hay, Mazurkiewicz said he has no plans to greatly expand or change the farm, ensuring it will remain a simple, working part of the city's rural landscape.

"I'm not going to jump back into farming at my age so Spielman can work this land as long as he wants it," he said. "That's how I look at it."



Clockwise from above: The dairy barn built by Ron Mazurkiewicz' grandparents; Ron with the expansive view east of the farm; the property as seen from neighboring Wisneske Farm, whose preservation inspired Ron's father to protect his own farm. A Wisneske barn is at far left, and the Mazurkiewicz' barn is visible at right in photo, taken Monday after a spring storm that coated the sprouting hayfields with snow.

Page 1: Ron Mazurkiewicz wheels his tractor across hayfields leading to the neighboring Wisneske Farm. The Mohegan Sun Hotel can be seen rising above the treeline at left of photo.



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